

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission
Thursday, April 21, 2016 - Town Hall

Members present:

Howard Orr, Roger Tracy, Gloria Smith, Brian Banak

Also present: EDC Director Patrick McMahon

Guest: Lee Corbett

Chairman Howard Orr called the meeting of the April 21, 2016 meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Minutes of the March 17, 2016 meeting -

Ms. Smith moved to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2016 meeting; Mr. Tracy seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Guest: Lee Corbett - C & S Landscape Design

Mr. Corbett informed the Commission of his progress. He has poured his concrete floor, the electricity and the plumbing are laid and the sewer and gas lines will be installed this week. He plans to plant grass in the front of the building and will plant arborvitae on the Bennett Road side.

Mr. McMahon received a phone call from Mrs. Aggie Schulte, of the Suffield Garden Club and she asked about the care of the Welcome Suffield sign. Mr. Corbett stated that not only he will care for the sign, he will maintain the sign in the future. There will be no windows on the sides of the building; he has ready had thief of materials from his site. Mr. Hawkins has approved the site plan changes.

Mr. Orr noted that the policy for sewer assessment by the WPCA has not been adjusted to be competitive with other towns. Mr. Cobbett stated he wanted to negotiate a fair assessment fee.

By unanimous vote, the EDC voted to approve \$2,500 reimbursable grant for site work for C&S Landscape Design.

Mr. Orr thanked Mr. Cobbett for coming to the meeting and his presentation.

Mr. Orr stated that the EDC should write a letter to WPCA recommending a fairer assessment fee. Mr. McMahon stated that the EDC should encourage the WPCA to change the assessment fee policy.

Route 75 Water and Sewer Main Extensions – Mr. McMahon reviewed his memorandum as presented to the Board of Finance and to the Board of Selectmen in some detail. – The Town secured a \$980,000 state grant to design and install water and sewer main extensions along Route 75 in our light industrial zone by the Bradley International

Airport. The design is complete and the Town received three bids for the first phase of the project but the balance of the state grant is not sufficient to complete this phase. Additional funding will be required to move forward with the awarding of the construction contract. This project lacks \$187,141.25. The state grant budget period runs through Dec. 31, 2016 so it is important to complete the project at this time. We would expect to award the project in May with a June construction start date.

We need to identify the source of the additional \$187,141.25 in order to move forward with the project. The Board of Finance heard our discussion, but took no action. The Board of Selectmen has approved funding, and it is recommended that the required funding be included in the FY 16-17 budget.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary
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